Remarks

The specification has been amended at various points to correct obvious errors and to render it consistent with itself and the drawings. It is submitted that the changes made to the specification do not change the content of the application as filed and should therefore be acceptable to the Examiner.

Figure 3 of the drawings has been amended in a manner considered to be consistent with the content of the application and thus in a manner which should also be acceptable to the Examiner. Missing lead lines have been applied.

The claims have been amended to replace currently pending claims 1 to 11 with new claims 12 to 99, of which: claims 12 to 73 are method claims and claims 74 to 99 comprise apparatus claims corresponding to some of the afore mentioned method claims.

It is the applicant's view that new claims 12 to 99 more clearly define the present invention and in a manner believed to distinguish it over prior art reference Lyons et al (US6075798).

The present invention is directed to a method and apparatus for transporting multi-protocol datagrams over a point to point protocol (PPP) link in an asynchronous transport network by encapsulating said datagrams into asynchronous transport network mini-cells. In the method of the invention a channel identifier (CID) field in the headers of the mini-cells is utilized to identify, through association with respective PPP identifiers, the multi-protocol datagrams that are encapsulated in the mini-cells. Since this is a point to point protocol system over an asynchronous transport network (such as ATM), no switching is required at the mini-cell layer (AAL2) (cf. page 6, lines 20 to 23) and thus the CID fields can be utilized as claimed in the present

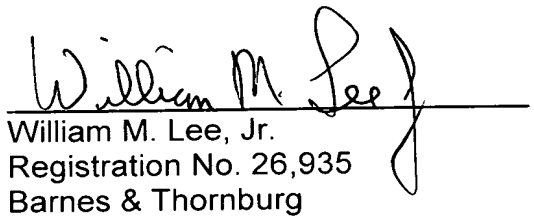
invention. This provides a number of advantages over known uses of the point to point protocol as set out in the specification for the present application.

In contrast, Lyons discloses an ATM adaptation layer type 2 (AAL2) system in which a five bit RES (or UUI) field is used to indicate an extended UUI field. The extended UUI field is utilized dynamically to convey in-call messages such as a voice coding rate change to address the problem that the standard five bit UUI field is too small to carry coding messages, for example, for some applications. In every other respect, Lyons discloses a typical AAL2 traffic transport system in which switching can be conducted at the AAL2 layer as well as at the ATM layer. Consequently, the system taught by Lyons cannot employ the mini-cell header CID fields in the manner claimed in the present invention since to incorporate such a feature into the disclosure of Lyons would prevent switching at the AAL2 layer. There is no suggestion in Lyons that the system is intended for or could be utilised for PPP datagram traffic transport.

In view of the foregoing, it can be concluded that Lyons neither anticipates the present invention as now claimed nor renders it obvious thereover. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

December 29, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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Approved
TH.
3/15/04

Protocol Identifier (8 or 16 bits)	Information	Optional Padding

Fig. 2 PPP Format

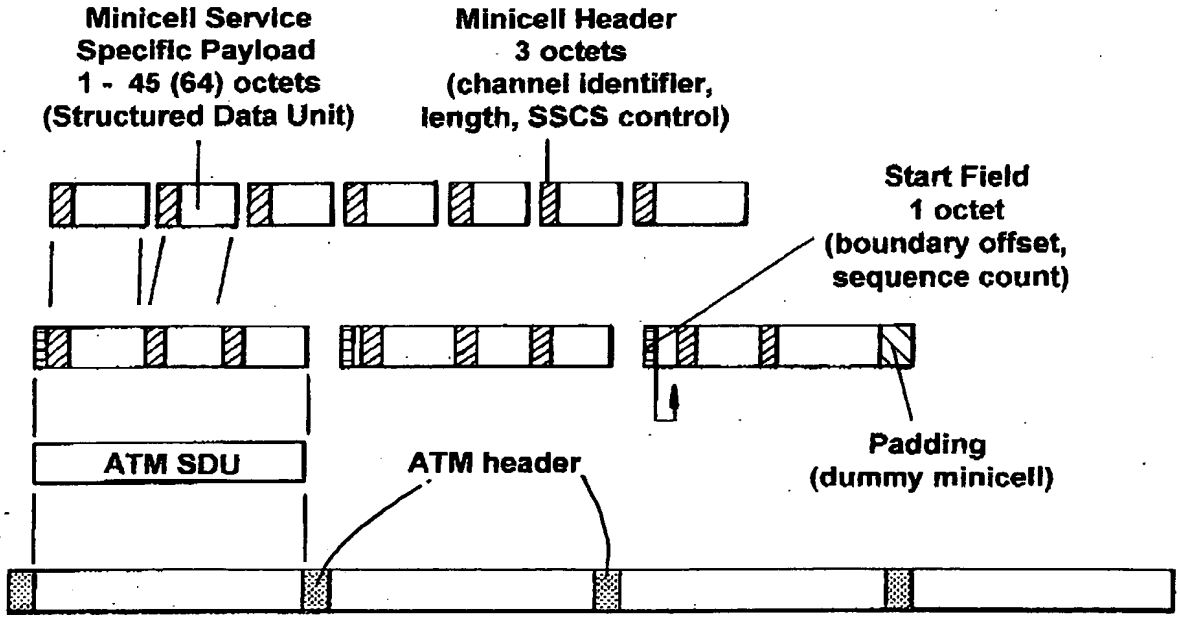

Fig. 3